

Assembly Bill No. 1872

Passed the Assembly August 18, 2008

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

Passed the Senate August 14, 2008

Secretary of the Senate

This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day
of _____, 2008, at _____ o'clock ____M.

Private Secretary of the Governor

CHAPTER _____

An act to add Section 56848 to the Education Code, relating to special education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1872, Coto. Special education: autism spectrum disorders: clearinghouse.

Existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction, with input from the University of California, the California State University, relevant fiscal and policy committees of the Legislature, the Legislative Blue Ribbon Commission on Autism, the State Department of Developmental Services, and other appropriate entities, to convene an advisory committee to develop specified recommendations that would identify the means by which public and nonpublic schools, including charter schools, may better serve children with autism, including, but not limited to, children with autism spectrum disorders.

This bill would establish the California Autism Spectrum Disorder Clearinghouse within the State Department of Education to provide evidence-based resources, research materials, information, and practices regarding the education of pupils with autism spectrum disorders. The department would be required to administer the clearinghouse in coordination with the State Department of Developmental Services. The Superintendent would be required to convene an oversight committee to represent the major stakeholders responsible for the education of pupils with autism spectrum disorders and to perform other related duties. The Superintendent would be authorized to solicit private donations, grants, or other funds for purposes of developing and maintaining the clearinghouse. The bill would not be implemented unless the Department of Finance certifies to the Superintendent that sufficient funds are available for implementation.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 56848 is added to the Education Code, to read:

56848. (a) The California Autism Spectrum Disorder Clearinghouse is hereby established within the department and shall be administered by the department in coordination with the State Department of Developmental Services.

(b) (1) The clearinghouse shall provide evidence-based and recommended information and practices regarding the education of pupils with autism spectrum disorders, including, but not limited to, information about and examples of instructional strategies, fiscal management practices, and organizational structures supporting quality service delivery.

(2) Information provided through the clearinghouse shall be targeted to a range of audiences, including, but not limited to, special and general education teachers, school administrators, speech-language pathologists, school psychologists, paraprofessionals, transportation specialists, parents and guardians, impacted pupils, and community service providers.

(c) The clearinghouse shall focus on, but need not be limited to, all of the following goals:

(1) Creating an Internet Web site modeled after proven efforts within California and nationwide. The Internet Web site shall include, but need not be limited to, links to other sites with evidence-based practices and resources for autism spectrum disorders available electronically or in hard copy.

(2) Creating a directory of evidence-based resources and practices for autism spectrum disorders.

(3) Featuring demonstration programs that are evidence-based, culturally sensitive, and linguistically appropriate.

(d) (1) The Superintendent shall convene an oversight committee to represent the major stakeholders responsible for the education of pupils with autism spectrum disorders, including local educational agencies, special education local plan areas, charter schools, nonpublic schools and agencies, teachers, parents, county offices of education, university researchers, private providers, representatives from the State Department of Developmental Services project "Autism Spectrum Disorders: Guidelines for Effective Interventions," and the Legislature. The oversight committee shall do all of the following:

(A) Establish criteria, guidelines, and processes for the selection of evidence-based resources and research materials for the

education of pupils with autism spectrum disorders and approve those materials prior to posting them in the clearinghouse.

(B) Select anchor documents and resources, including the State Department of Developmental Services project “Autism Spectrum Disorders: Guidelines for Effective Interventions.”

(C) Develop an online rating system, periodic surveys of users regarding general and specific aspects of the functions of the clearinghouse, or another means of acquiring and evaluating user feedback about the clearinghouse from all targeted audiences. The results of this feedback shall be used to contribute to a periodic assessment of the effectiveness of information and resources provided through the clearinghouse Internet Web site.

(2) The members of the oversight committee shall serve without compensation.

(e) The Legislature recognizes that the regional center system serves individuals who are deemed eligible pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 95014 of the Government Code and subdivisions (a) and (l) of Section 4512 of the Welfare and Institutions Code. Nothing in this section is intended to change existing eligibility requirements for receiving regional center services.

(f) The Superintendent may solicit private donations, grants, or other funds for purposes of implementing this section.

(g) This section shall not be implemented unless the Department of Finance certifies, in writing, to the Superintendent that private donations received pursuant to subdivision (f) are sufficient to implement this section.

Approved _____, 2008

Governor